

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

February 14, 2023

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The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Chairwoman  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner  
The Honorable Nathan Simington, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel and Commissioners Carr, Starks, and Simington:

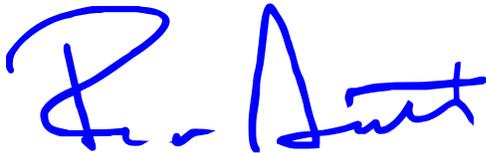
We write to request that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) consider expediting a rule to allow critical infrastructure providers, such as electric utilities, to have access to FCC licensed spectrum for command and control communications, in particular the 4.9 GHz and 5 GHz (C Band) bands. As you know, Hurricane Ian, one of the most powerful storms to ever to hit the U.S., raked a path of destruction across the state of Florida, destroying communities and leaving millions without power. Utility companies used drones to easily assess the damage in flooded and unreachable areas, providing crews with critical information that helped get the lights back on for our constituents.

Unfortunately, because these drones have to rely on unlicensed spectrum and a local radio signal, they are limited to fly within 50 miles from the airport they depart from. If electric utilities had the ability to use FCC licensed statewide spectrum they would have been able to fly much greater distances and complete more flights to assess the damage from Hurricane Ian. Currently, these drones rely on unlicensed radio spectrum, which carries with it the risk of harmful interference and the possibility of losing communications contact with the drone.

We ask that the FCC expedite these rulemakings, so that electric utilities can more effectively survey storm damage and expedite recovery efforts. In addition to the obvious storm recovery benefits, if the FCC were to grant such a license application, it would enable the FCC to garner real world experience and data for the future licensing of command and control drone communications in the 5 GHz Band (C Band).

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott  
United States Senator



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress